

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-22. (cancelled)

23. (currently amended) A purified HIV-1 variant virus,

wherein said HIV-1 variant virus differs at the amino acid sequence level from the group of viruses consisting of HIV-1_{III_B}, HIV-1_{BRU}, and HIV-1_{ARV-2} greater than 3.4% in the entire Gag protein, 3.1% in the entire Pol protein, and 13.0% in the entire Env protein,

wherein antibodies in AIDS patient sera bind to Gag, Pol, or Env polypeptides of said HIV-1 variant virus,

wherein said antibodies bind to Gag, Pol, or Env polypeptides of the virus designated HIV-1_{MAL} deposited at the COLLECTION NATIONALE DES CULTURES DE MICRO-ORGANISMES (CNCM) under No. I-641,

wherein the genetic structure of said HIV-1 variant is 5'-LTR-gag-pol-vif-vpr-tat-rev-vpu-env-nef-LTR-3', and

wherein the nucleic acid of said HIV-1 variant virus can be detected by stringent hybridization (50% formamide, 5X SSC, at 42°C, for 12-16 hours) to a DNA probe comprising the genomic cDNA of HIV-1_{MAL}.